



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

NEWS RELEASE

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ELECTRONICS COMPANY PAYS FINES FOR UNLAWFUL HANDLING OF HAZARDOUS WASTES

San Diego City Attorney's Consumer & Environmental Protection Unit Prosecutes Case

San Diego, CA: Circuit Technologies, Inc. has paid \$45,000 for failure to comply with laws written to protect the public and the environment from harm caused by hazardous wastes. As a manufacturer of printed circuit boards used in electronics, the Chula Vista company generated hazardous wastes and industrial wastes that were discharged into the city of San Diego's sewage treatment system. The company operated and later closed its business without safely managing its hazardous wastes. The case was prosecuted by Steven Gold, a Deputy City Attorney in the San Diego City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit.

This prosecution is the second of two cases brought by the San Diego City Attorney involving Circuit Technologies, Inc. The first case resulted in criminal charges against the manager and co-owner, Babulal Domadia. In 1998 while conducting a routine inspection, Metropolitan Wastewater Department inspectors discovered that Defendant Domadia was diluting the company's industrial wastes just prior to disposal. Dilution is a means of illegally disposing of hazardous wastes; such wastes must instead be specially treated before they are disposed to the sewer or must be transferred to facilities specially designed to handle hazardous wastes. Without this treatment, the wastes can harm the sewage treatment process and the environment. On February 9, 1999, Defendant Domadia was sentenced to 90 days in custody and ordered to pay \$7,500 in fines for violating California's Clean Water Act.

As a result of the unlawful dilution and other violations observed by the Wastewater Department inspectors, the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health conducted its own inspections. Health inspectors discovered several violations, including the fact the company was

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ceasing operations without properly labeling and storing its hazardous wastes. Those violations led to this case.

“This prosecution sends a message to all businesses handling hazardous materials,” said City Attorney Casey Gwinn. “Businesses, even those that are closing, must follow the environmental laws designed to protect the public from health hazards. What’s more, taxpayers should not have to pay for cleaning a chemical mess created by sloppy business practices.”

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